Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I asked that question to put some supplementary question. Now, I shall postpone it.

Jaggery tapping.

127. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member for Excise be pleased to inform the number of cocoanut trees palmyras and sagos licensed in the State this year for tapping jaggery toddy and fermented toddy (giving separate figures)?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—

	Cocoanut.	*Palmyra*	*Sago.*
For jaggery toddy	6,015	8,093	8,460.
For fermented toddy	61,872	8,239	4,453.

(Till the end of Edavam 1101.)

128. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state that, in spite of the representations made to the Government by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council in the budget and legislative sessions that the present system of enforcing a license fee for tapping for jaggery manufacture should be abolished, and that the system now prevailing in the Madras Presidency should be followed, the Government will continue the present system in the ensuing year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Excise Committee recently constituted will enquire into the advisability of abolishing the license fee, and the Government will examine their recommendations, if any, in the matter. Till then the present system will have to be continued.

Licenses to new tappers.

129. Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.— Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases of new tappers has the department over-ruled the objections of the Aminadars and granted licenses against their recommendations to the contrary, during the last 3 years, and what were the reasons for the same;

(b) has the Government or the department made any inquiries as to the real cause underlying their objections in the above cases;

(c) if so, has it called for any explanations from the officers concerned, and what steps have been taken by the Government to regulate their conduct in future? If not, why not?

(d) If not, will the Government be pleased to make immediate inquiries and take the necessary steps to prevent such conduct in future and inform this House the result of the inquiry and the steps taken?

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